

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 21, 2010

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Hoyer:

As you consider bringing legislation to the floor to ensure safe production of energy, we urge you to include a provision requiring disclosure of hydraulic fracturing chemicals. The CLEAR Act currently requires disclosure of chemicals used in drilling on public lands. We would like to see this requirement expanded to include all hydraulic fracturing of oil and gas wells.

Hydraulic fracturing is a commonly used practice in natural gas drilling where tens of thousands of gallons of water, sand and chemicals are injected at high pressure into underground rock formations to blast them open and increase the efficiency of the wells. "Fracking," as it is known, often occurs near underground sources of drinking water.

This is a major concern because fracking fluids may contain highly toxic chemicals such as benzene, toluene, methanol and formaldehyde. Although even low concentrations of such toxic chemicals can have adverse health and environmental consequences, the precise compounds used in fracking fluids are currently kept secret from the public.

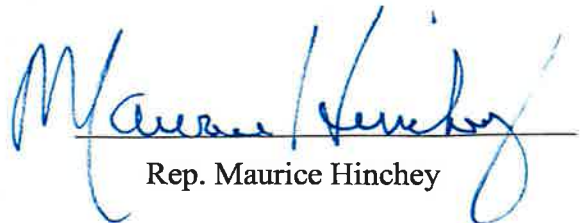
Many within industry already agree with a disclosure requirement. Just last week, Range Resources announced that it would be voluntarily disclosing the chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing in the Marcellus Shale. CEO John Pinkerton was quoted as saying: "It's the right thing to do morally and ethically, but it's also right for our shareholders." One company in one region is a good start, but any community where fracking is going on deserves similar information.

We hope that you will include public disclosure of hydraulic fracturing chemicals in legislation promoting oil and gas safety. We have a right to know what chemicals are being used in our communities.

Sincerely,



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